



Town of Pahrump

400 North Highway 160 • Pahrump, Nevada 89060 • 775-727-5107 • Fax 775-727-0345 • townoffice@pahrumpnv.org

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

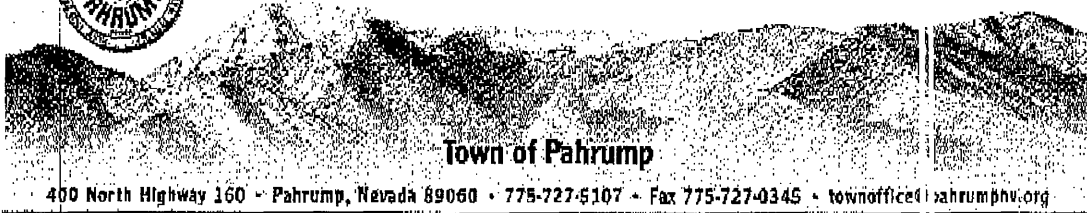
January 12, 2010

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

In the debate over net neutrality, I'm afraid rural business interests have not been heard. On behalf of the Town of Pahrump Community Business & Economic Development, I'm writing to voice serious concerns we have with the proposed rulemaking outlined in FCC Docket No. 09-191, *In the Matter of Preserving the Open Internet*.

First, our members are simply not convinced that there is sufficient evidence to suggest that a wrong needs to be righted here. The Internet and broadband access has flourished in recent years, extending its reach deep into rural communities like mine, ensuring our members have a more level playing field to conduct their business here in Nevada, across the country and around the globe. And, we've seen these great strides in access and affordability without government regulations.

Of considerable importance to our Town families and in the greater Nye County community is the issue of access to broadband services and continued development of a robust network that ensures wherever we live, work and play we can get online fast, safe, and securely at an affordable cost. The real losers should you proceed with the proposed net neutrality rules would be rural communities like Pahrump Valley.



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There's nothing more important to the growth and future prosperity of our local economy than access to broadband services. It places us on a more even footing with our urban neighbors, suppliers and customers. We feel there have been considerable concerns raised about net neutrality's impact on new investment in broadband and networks.

Any reduced incentive or decline in investment would hit communities like ours—and those rural areas all across our country—in the worst way. Our families, our schools and our businesses would all suffer if investment in broadband access were curtailed.

While we realize instituting rules which would deter the growth of broadband may not be your intention, we fear it will be a consequence that is simply unfortunate and unfair to rural communities like ours.

Sincerely,

Al Balloqui
Pahrump
Community Business & Economic Development